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G-2 Report

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NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

BULGARIA (Geographic)

Subject: Political Geography - National Boundaries.
National Boundaries of Bulgaria.

774.00/5571

The present territory of Bulgaria is a part of an ancient kingdom which in the interval of centuries passed under many rules but was finally won back from Turkey in 1878 with final complete separation from that country in 1908.

The countries which surround Bulgaria are all of races differing from the Bulgarians, yet in most cases there is an overlapping of population on both sides of the frontiers which is a constant cause of friction.

The present boundaries were established by the Treaty of Neuilly after the World War, at which time all of Bulgaria's neighbors, except Turkey, received slices of former Bulgarian territory. To Rumania went a part of the Dobroudja. This is extremely fertile wheat land and the loss of this territory has been a great loss to Bulgaria as a whole and to the port of Varna in particular as most of the export trade of that town was derived from the lost area. There are many Bulgarians in this area and their ill treatment at the hands of the Rumanians is a constant source of friction. So far as the rest of the Roumanian boundary is concerned—that formed by the Danube—there is no difficulty.

Yugoslavia, to the west, was also given certain strips of territory with the object of bettering the military aspect of her frontier. This again has caused constant friction. This frontier is guarded on both sides by barb wire entanglements and machine gun emplacements and is manned by numerous frontier guards. Until the last visit of the late King Alexander to Sofia, this frontier was almost as active a war zone as some of the quieter sectors in France during the World War. Since this visit the Serb-Bulgar relations seem to have greatly improved and since that time there has been no report in the daily papers of any frontier incidents which formerly were reported at least weekly if not oftener.

The Greek frontier is entirely new, all of western Thrace having been given to Greece. Bulgaria resents this more than any other loss. The land itself was valuable, it being a splendid tobacco area and the cutting her off from the Aegean has been deeply felt. This alone has probably been enough to keep her out of the Balkan Pact. She is not willing to bind herself to the present frontier, which she claims was unjustly forced on her.

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From: M.A. Istanbul Report No. 6470 December 31, 1934.

Bulgaria's boundaries are definitely established and marked, the only one apparently where any doubt existed was along the Turkish frontier and this has been marked as reported in report No. 6424 (1180), November 12, 1934.

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Central File: Decimal File 774.0015, Political Relations Of States, Relations; Bi-Lateral Treaties., Political., Bulgaria And The World, Boundary Questions. Composition Of Differences., December 31, 1934. 31 Dec. 1934. MS Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States: Records of the U.S. Department of State, 1930-1944: Records of the Department of State Relating to Political Relations of Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States, 1930-1939. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5111390804%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC. Accessed 20 June 2025.